

Message Text

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PAGE 01 REYKJA 00176 061209Z

11

ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 FEA-01 CIAE-00 NSAE-00 NSCE-00 SSO-00

USIE-00 INRE-00 PM-04 INR-07 L-03 ACDA-10 PA-02 SS-15

PRS-01 SP-02 TRSE-00 SAJ-01 AGR-10 AID-05 CEA-01

CEQ-01 CG-00 CIEP-02 OFA-01 COME-00 DLOS-04 DOTE-00

EB-07 EPA-04 ERDA-07 FMC-02 H-02 INT-05 IO-11 JUSE-00

NSC-05 NSF-02 OES-05 OMB-01 SAL-01 /135 W

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O R 061140Z FEB 76

FM AMEMBASSY REYKJAVIK

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 6021

INFO COMICEDEFOR

CINCLANT IMMEDIATE

CNO WASHDC

SECDEF WASHDC

AMEMBASSY BONN IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN

AMEMBASSY HELSINKI

AMEMBASSY LONDON IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY OSLO

AMEMBASSY STOCKHOLM

USMISSION NATO IMMEDIATE

UNCLAS REYKJAVIK 0176

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: EFIS PFOR IC UK

SUBJECT: FISHERIES DISPUTE: STATEMENTS OF PRIMIN AND FONMIN ON
RETURN TO BRITISH FRIGATES

1. ON THE ANNOUNCEMENT THAT BRITISH FRIGATES HAD REENTERED
ICELAND'S CLAIMED FISHERIES ZONE IN RESPONSE TO LATEST TRAWL-
CUTTING INCIDENT, PRIMEMIN GEIR HALLGRIMSSON MADE FOLLOWING
STATEMENT TO PRESS: "THIS DECISION IS REGRETTABLE, HASTY AND
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PAGE 02 REYKJA 00176 061209Z

COMPLETELY INCOMPREHENSIBLE. THE ACTION OF THE COAST GUARD TOOK

PLACE WITHIN A PROTECTED ZONE. THE BRITISH HAVE SAID THAT THEY UNDERSTOOD OUR AIMS FOR PROTECTION AND CONSERVATION AND NOW THEY MAKE ANY NEGOTIATIONS OUT OF THE QUESTION BY IGNORING OUR PROTECTIVE MEASURES. THEIR THREATS HAVE BEEN IN THAT DIRECTION SO THAT WE COULD HAVE EXPECTED MILITARY SHIP PROTECTION TO BE EXTENDED AGAIN. WE PROTEST STRONGLY THE REPEATED USE OF SUCH FORCE. AT THE SAME TIME, WE SHALL KEEP OUR CALM AND BE MINDFUL THAT THE ONE WHO SHOWS PERSEVERANCE AND CALMNESS WINS OUT IN THE END."

2. FORNMIN EINAR AGUSTSSON ALSO MADE FOLLOWING STATEMENT: "IT IS MY PERSONAL OPINION THAT WE SHOULD BREAK OFF DIPLOMATIC RELATIONS NOW. THE MATTER WILL BE DISCUSSED IN THE CABINET TODAY AND A DECISION WILL PROBABLY BE TAKEN THEN. THE GOVERNMENT HAS ANNOUNCED THAT IT WILL NOT TOLERATE INTERVENTION BY BRITISH WARSHIPS AND I BELIEVE THEY WILL STICK TO THAT POLICY. I EXPECT A BREAK IN RELATIONS WILL BE ANNOUNCED WITH SOME NOTICE SO THAT THE BRITISH CAN HAVE TIME TO CALL THEIR FRIGATES OUT OF THE ICELANDIC WATERS. THIS IS ONLY MY GUESS, HOWEVER. I BELIEVE WE CANNOT SIT DOWN AT THE NEGOTIATING TABLE WITH THE BRITISH WHILE THERE ARE WARSHIPS WITHIN OUR FISHERIES LIMITS."
IRVING

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Message Attributes

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